

Draft Minutes
Delta Protection Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 1998

1. **Call to Order/Attendance.** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Commissioners present included: Barber, Brean, Broddrick, Cabaldon, Calone, Ferreira (at 6:55 p.m.), Harris, Chairman McCarty, McGowan (at 6:45 p.m.), Vice Chair Mello, Nottoli, Potter (at 6:40 p.m.), Salmon, Sanders, and Thomson. Absent were Commissioners: Canciamilla, Curry, Rhodes, and Yates.

2. **Public Comments.** Ken Schiedigger of California Delta Chambers and Visitors' Bureau announced a Delta-wide press conference for Saturday, September September 26, from 1-3 p.m., at the Riverboat Marina. The purpose of the press conference is to demonstrate to the public the variety and vitality of recreation activities in the Delta and to promote recognizing the Delta as the 13th tourism region in the State. Chairman McCarty said that part of the Commission's charter is to promote enhanced recreational opportunities in the Delta, and welcomed the opportunity to work more closely with Delta Chambers to this end.

Commissioner Nottoli added that the designation of the Delta as the 13th recreation region was discussed at the Recreation Subcommittee meeting held earlier in the evening. He suggested that a resolution in support of this designation be agendized for consideration at the next Commission meeting.

3. **Minutes of the July 23, 1998 Meeting.** Commissioner Mello clarified his position on the purchase of agricultural easements for the production of coarse and cereal grains (page 8), stating that the purpose of an easement should be to reduce capital investment in the ground, thereby increasing the economic viability of growing coarse and cereal grains.

Carla Caruso stated that she submitted written changes to the Attorney General's Report section to Ms Aramburu.

On a motion by Commissioner Barber, and a second by Commissioner Harris, the minutes were approved with the amendments. Commissioners Thomson and Salmon abstained.

4. **Chairman's Report.** Chairman McCarty announced that the Governor signed the legislation for the Commission's ten-year extension. The Commission now has the opportunity to forge a vision for the future, reinforce the Commission's Resource Management Plan, and continue working collaboratively with the CALFED process. Issues which still need to be addressed are funding and term limits of Commissioners. All Commissioners will be receiving notice of each subcommittee meeting; anyone interested in participating on the subcommittees or

the Commission should give their name and area of interest to Ms Aramburu. The Budget and Finance Subcommittee will be meeting on Wednesday, October 28 at 3 p.m. at the McCarty Company Conference Room to address the budget and work program.

Chairman McCarty said that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 1998 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jean Harvie Community Center.

Upcoming Delta events include: Free Fishing Day on Saturday, September 26, and the Sandhill Crane Festival at Lodi High School October 9-11, 1998.

5. **Attorney General's Report.** Carla Caruso said that at the last meeting, Commissioner Curry asked Ms Caruso if, when CALFED gave a grant to a contractor who in turn subcontracted to another party, that subcontract is subject to state contracting requirements. Ms Caruso said that she was unable to approach CALFED with this question, as it would be a breach of the ethical wall; Ms Aramburu, however, was able to find out that these subcontracts are, in fact, subject to state contracting requirements.

6. **Executive Director's Report.** Ms Aramburu gave a brief summary on the items included in the mailing packet. Ms Aramburu said that in response to a question at the last meeting from Commissioner Mello of which lands are included in the Cosumnes Preserve, staff was able to obtain and provide a map of these properties to the Commissioners. Also included in the mailing was an update on the status of the \$2 million in Prop 204 grants set aside for public access and recreation in the Delta, which was given to the Department of Parks and Recreation to manage.

Ms Aramburu briefly discussed the materials which were distributed at the meeting. There was a draft report, prepared for CALFED by Murray, Burns, and Kienlen and Kjeldsen, Sinnock, and Neudeck, estimating the costs of raising Delta non-project levees to PL84-99 standards. There were two other CALFED memos: one summarizing the various comments received on the EIS/EIR released in March, and the other estimating the costs of Stage 1 implementation. Ms Clamurro also circulated a memo on documents received from the State Board on the Grasslands Bypass Project.

Ms Aramburu said she and Lori Clamurro have attended numerous CALFED meetings on the Commission's behalf. In addition, staff has participated in site visits to the Calhoun Cut and Cosumnes Preserves, and a meeting attended by Vice Chair Mello and other local landowners on North Delta flood issues, which will be followed up by a meeting with a consultant to discuss the comments forwarded on behalf of the North Delta landowners. Ms Aramburu spoke at both the Walnut Grove Rotary and the Rio Vista Lions; she attended a meeting at Winter Island of the Long Term Management Strategy Work Group and was able to view some of the restoration occurring there with the reuse of dredged material; she has been tracking the State Board's consideration of statewide regulations on the use of sludge and biosolids, which currently would not include the Delta; and she will be meeting with boaters and marina owners in October to

determine whether cleanup legislation is needed. Staff attended the BDAC meeting in Stockton and the public meetings at Roberts Island and in Stockton. Ms Clamurro also attended meetings on the Sacramento River Watershed Program and on split tail in the Yolo Bypass.

Ms Aramburu discussed other items of interest to the Commission: Great Valley Center awarded LEGACI grants in the Delta area to Yolo Land Trust, Yolo Basin Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and Bass and Wolf, an artist and architect who are developing a Delta map game; Department of Conservation's Agricultural Land Stewardship Program awarded grants for a project in Yolo County and a project in San Joaquin County (neither are in the Delta); and Department of Boating and Waterways has published a new marina directory covering all marinas statewide and a personal watercraft newsletter addressing two stroke engines and MTBE issues. Department of Water Resources is preparing the environmental document on the Egeria Densa Removal Program for the Department of Boating and Waterways; the expected release date has been moved to June 1999 in light of research and monitoring concerns raised by the local community. The PBS show "Setting a Course: The California Bay Delta" aired recently; the video is available for \$25. The Ad Hoc Group's Alternative Approach Toward Habitat Restoration in the Delta presented at the last meeting was refined after Commission comment and review and forwarded to BDAC at their meeting in Stockton. There was general support of the concepts outlined in the paper, and the Chair of BDAC directed staff to incorporate the ideas in the paper into the revised CALFED alternative currently being developed.

7. Pending Projects Memo. Regarding Contra Costa County's Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion at Sanitary District #19, Discovery Bay, Vice Chair Mello asked Ms Aramburu who notified whom of the Notice of Violation issued 8/31/98. She answered that RWQCB notified the sewage plant that they were in violation, in light of a number of incidents that had been brought to the Board's attention; the district felt there were some unique coincidences, has taken steps to correct the problem, and is waiting for a response from RWQCB. Ms Aramburu will update the Commission on the outcome.

Vice Chair Mello asked if the City of Brentwood was planning to increase the amount of sewage effluent on Jersey Island above the previously stated level; Ms Aramburu answered yes. She mentioned that the Commission adopted an exemption for the Ironhouse Sanitary District's placement of sewage effluent and biosolids on Jersey Island because they had completed environmental documentation prior to the adoption of the Commission's Resource Management and Land Use Plan. At the time, ISD proposed a light amount of disposal on their Jersey Island property. The City of Brentwood has been evaluating their future needs for sewage treatment; one option is enlarging the existing treatment plant, treating the wastewater to tertiary levels, and storage in Marsh Creek, and another option is building a large pipeline to ship their sewage to ISD for disposal on Jersey Island. ISD has acquired more land on Jersey Island since adoption of the environmental document, and feels it has adequate capacity for the increased disposal due to the minimal amount originally proposed. RWQCB has not yet reviewed the application. At this point it is not known which option Brentwood will choose, but Ms Aramburu has written to them

regarding the Commission's policies, and she will keep the Commission informed. Commissioner Sanders asked which level of disposal was discussed in the Negative Declaration; Ms Aramburu answered that it was the expanded acreage and capacity.

Commissioner Salmon asked who would be monitoring the Trimarck/Mountain House water treatment plants. Ms Aramburu said that Mountain House was a development project approved by San Joaquin County; the waste and fresh water treatment facilities are the first infrastructure proposed. The general concepts for these facilities were approved by the county, and proponents are now looking at refining their ideas on capacity and location, and are going through the process of getting permits. Usually, the sanitary district or sewage plant conducts the day-to-day monitoring of the facilities, and is required to submit monitoring information to the RWQCB. San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors is overseeing this project, and acting as the community services district until Mountain House is developed and inhabited.

8. Update on State Legislation. Ms Clamurro briefed the Commission on bills that have been chaptered since the mailing: AB 1625, Fish & Game Penalties; AB 1998, Agricultural Chemical Reduction Pilot Demonstration Projects; AB 2023, Flood Control and Water Conservation; and SB 1075, Delta Protection Commission. Commissioner Brean asked if any of the bills listed in the memo were two-year bills, which would carry over into the next session; Ms Aramburu answered that it is the end of the two-year session, so any dead bills would have to be reintroduced in the next session.

Chairman McCarty asked Ms Aramburu about possible amendments to SB 172; she will provide an update at the November meeting.

9. Briefing on CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Projects Funded to Date. Ms Clamurro updated the Commission with three memos sent out in the mailing: the 1995-96 CUWA funded projects and the 1997-98 and May 1998 CALFED funded projects. At the meeting, she noted that she had contact with Walt Hoyer of Metropolitan Water District for the current status of the 1995-96 CUWA projects: the design for the Sherman Island project is virtually complete and will go to bid soon; the subcontracts for Predicting Ecological Functions from Restoration of Diked Wetlands have been negotiated and the project is underway; the contract for the Port of Sacramento's Decker Island project has been terminated; permits have been obtained for Inventory of Rearing Habitat for Juvenile Salmon and the project is underway; the Corps of Engineers has been advertising for bids on the Prospect Island project, and construction should start in November; and the Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Research program is about half complete.

Vice Chair Mello said, referring to the Prospect Island project's removal of unscreened diversions to eliminate fish mortality, that Fish and Game biologists have told him there is mortality associated with the pumping in his siphons, but it's not been proven; he asked if this was documented or assumed mortality. Commissioner Brodrick said it was assumed mortality; a project has been approved that would study the degree to which siphons influence mortality.

Ms Clamurro said that there is not much change in the 1997-98 CALFED projects memo, except that the contract for Assessing Impacts of Selenium on the Bay-Delta Ecosystem has been executed. According to Cindy Darling, CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, a lot of these contracts are in General Services, and should not have a problem with final execution.

Vice Chair Mello said he spoke with Jeff Hart, the consultant for the Tyler Island Levee project, who said that the Nationwide 13 permit only took a month to obtain, and the 1601 streambed alteration permit is close at hand. It looks like the project will move forward faster than anticipated.

Ms Clamurro briefed the Commission on the May 1998 CALFED proposals recommended for funding. CALFED is proceeding per the recommendations of the Integration Panel. CALFED staff is notifying applicants on whether or not their projects are approved for funding.

Chairman McCarty said these memos deal with a series of funding rounds associated with the CALFED Program, and cover various types of restoration programs taking place in the Delta and the watershed. Ms Aramburu noted that some of the projects conform with the Commission's recommendation of approving projects on smaller lands and channel islands first, including the Rhode Island project and the Fern Headreach channel islands acquisition and enhancement.

10. Briefing on Grasslands Bypass Project. Ms Clamurro, referring to the document in the mailing, said that RWQCB reviewed and adopted new waste discharge requirements for the Project at their July 24, 1998 meeting; the new selenium load values for the next three years of the project were included in the memo. Ms Clamurro circulated a second memo at the meeting, which summarizes two reports from the RWQCB on the monitoring program. One report addressed agricultural drainage contribution in the Grasslands watershed, and the other addressed the water quality in the lower San Joaquin River; the two reports compare the water year before the Project was in place and the first year of the Project.

Commissioner Broddrick said that a full assemblage of tissue samples of fish from the tropic level all the way up has also been undertaken, in an attempt to determine if and what the correlation is between fisheries values complexity and the water quality relationships before and after Project implementation. A report on this monitoring should be available sometime in January 1999.

Ms Aramburu reminded the Commission that the water from this area flows north into the Delta and affects the water quality of the Delta and thus the land uses adjacent to the waterways.

11. Briefing on Issues of Concern to Delta Mosquito and Vector Control Districts Associated with CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program. Chairman McCarty said that the four Districts that serve the Delta have expressed concerns on the issues of restoring tidal and managed wetlands and the impact of this restoration on mosquito and vector control. Ms

Aramburu said that the Commission's comments on CALFED's draft environmental document included the uncertainty about the possible impacts of the ERPP on mosquito breeding; this raised the concern of the four Mosquito and Vector Control Districts serving the Delta that the construction and management of restoration sites could adversely affect human health. The Districts would like to work with CALFED to develop some regional Best Management Practices (BMP), and representatives from two of the four Districts briefed the Commission on how the Delta could be affected, and how they're approaching a solution as a group.

David Brown, Manager of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District, reviewed the letter the Districts jointly wrote on their concerns regarding the CALFED Program. One of the concerns expressed was that BMP for wetland management should be developed before any wetland creation or restoration is performed. Mosquito control districts have their own style of great water habitats that won't produce mosquitos, which usually involve extremely steep sides, deep water, and no emergent water vegetation; this does not fit in with the wetland restoration concepts involved in the CALFED Program. The Districts would like to see a marriage of the two concepts, and propose bringing in the University of California to develop some Best Management Plans that will enhance wildlife habitat, yet minimize mosquito production. Also, the acquisition of privately owned lands for wetland development often results in a lack of revenues for the Districts, which are generally funded by property taxes, because lands that transfer into public ownership drop off the tax rolls, resulting in inadequate funding for control measures in the event that wetlands are developed and more mosquitos occur. With conservation easements where the land remains in private ownership, problems can still occur when the landowner is caught between Vector Control Districts telling them to conform with their Best Management Practices by constructing deep-water, steep-sided habitat, and the agency who initiated the easement is telling them to construct shallow water, emergent vegetation habitat. Finally, the Districts wanted to express to CALFED their concerns about the lack of adequate mitigation measures in the Draft PEIS/EIR.

Commissioner Broddrick says that this is an issue that has been addressed on and off for over forty years; he asked Mr. Brown's opinion on the success of meeting those dual objectives. As a public landowner, DFG is assessed for mosquito and vector control, in a significant amount. He asked about Mr. Brown's experience in terms of being able to work out a solution with BMP. Mr. Brown used Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge as an example; the Districts had concerns with USFWS not having to listen to their concerns on vector control, and the public concern which ensued provided a mechanism for the Districts to initiate a dialogue where USFWS listened to their concerns and incorporated some of their BMP. It is not yet known what role these BMP will play, because not much land has been flooded to date for wetland creation, but the Districts are hoping that the cooperation they've had to date will continue as more land is acquired and more wetlands are created on the refuge. In the case of the Yolo Bypass, very good communication was established between the Districts, the Yolo Basin Foundation and the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area regarding the flooding of those lands. There are some cases where a cooperative relationship has not been established, and problems arise when property is purchased and wetland created, and the Districts end up being called in because of a mosquito problem; this

creates an adversarial role for them. The most successful solution is for everyone to get together and decide what needs to be done, and getting the University of California involved might help smooth out the differences between wetlands creation and vector control.

Ed Luccessi, Assistant Manager of San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District, said that there is no security that the funding for the Districts will be there after wetlands are created. CALFED has the money to create these wetlands, and the Districts need to participate at the design phase and regarding mosquito control measures in the restoration projects. This proactive role would ensure that the Districts' concerns factor into any decisions that will be made in future Delta wetland projects, public or private.

Chairman McCarty said that this item was for Commission information only, and encouraged the work to continue in an attempt to solve this problem. Ms Aramburu said that she spoke with John Stroh, who drafted the letter and works with Ed Luccessi; he asked her to call Dick Daniel, Manager of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, and reemphasize the interest and availability of the four Districts to work with CALFED in the development of BMP for the region. She has done so.

12. Public Hearing on "Economic Impact of Recreation in the Delta". Chairman McCarty announced that the Commission was holding a public hearing on the last of three reports prepared on recreation in the Delta. The report was prepared with information gathered in the Recreation User Survey and was funded by the Department of Boating and Waterways and the Delta Protection Commission.

Ms Aramburu said that when the Commission worked on the background report on Recreation for the Plan, the Commission was concerned that there was inadequate current data on recreation uses in the Delta. To address this lack of information, the Commission and Department of Boating and Waterways funded studies. The first was the inventory of recreation facilities, provided by Commission staff, which is available on the website or in the form of a written report. The second report, prepared under contract by the Department of Parks and Recreation, was a user survey using a pool of 10,000 licensed anglers and 10,000 registered boat owners statewide, asking about recreational uses in the Delta. The data from that questionnaire was passed on to the University of California, a subcontractor of the Department of Boats and Waterways. George Goldman was the principal researcher, and with his associates, they developed some numbers on economic impacts of recreation on the Delta area, based on the boater and angler information from the user survey.

Ms Aramburu acknowledged that Commissioner Nottoli served as the Chair of the Recreation Oversight Subcommittee meeting held earlier in the evening to discuss the report. Others on the Subcommittee included: Department of Fish and Game wardens Mervyn Hee and Carolyn Doody, Judy Higley of the Department of Water Resources, and citizen representative Chris Lauritzen. Commissioner Curry, representing Boating and Waterways, and citizen representatives Sally Shanks and Dave Smith could not attend.

Commissioner Nottoli thanked the Subcommittee members on their work over the years on these reports, and added that this most recent report is a good basis to start from when evaluating the economic impact of fishing and boating in the Delta.

Ms Aramburu said that at the Subcommittee meeting, there were a few minor changes, which will be corrected in the report, but generally the Subcommittee felt that the report was accurate, and did not contain any errors or miscalculations. One letter from another consulting firm, Foster and Associates, raised some questions which were passed on to Mr. Goldman; he will contact the author. Also, the Subcommittee wanted to reinforce the importance of recreational issues in the Delta, and that it is important for Commission to consider these issues and possibly support the creation of the 13th recreational area in the State.

George Goldman, UC Berkeley, for over 30 years, said this project was unusual because it involved putting together a collection of zip codes, on which the economic model for the Delta was based, as opposed to using the State or county models used in most regional economics analyses. He said he now has a very descriptive economic model of the Delta, which describes the model and how it estimates multiplier effects. He said the title of the report may be changed to Economic Impact of Boating and Fishing Recreation, because only boating and fishing is discussed in terms of expenditures and economic impact, personal income, jobs, etc.

Commissioner Brean asked if the multiplier effect effectively boiled down to a discreet number; he noticed several tiers of numbers in the report, but not a cumulative simple number. Mr. Goldman stated that in fact the multiplier effect would not boil down to a simple number. Each sector in the model has a different multiplier, and the model is a description of the dollars flowing around in the economy; in other words, if you add or subtract an extra dollar, how does that "ripple" through the economy in terms of jobs or personal income. Based on geographic area, and based on the economic sector or activity you're talking about, there are personal income multipliers, job multipliers, sales multipliers, etc., which will be unique for that area. The larger the area, the higher the multiplier will be, and the inverse is true for small areas. The model estimates for every dollar show how much is spent locally, and how much goes for imports or exports. The model used in this report is on the computer in Berkeley, and can be used to further analyze the economic structure of the Delta community.

Vice Chair Mello asked about the usefulness of the model in determining the detrimental impact on socioeconomic activities by the retirement of agricultural land as part of the CALFED process. The Commission has been trying to make clear to CALFED that those adverse impacts must be minimized. Mr. Goldman said that would be an easy application to do. He just finished a project with a graduate student modeling the effects of taking surface water away from agriculture in eastern San Joaquin County, which was a complicated model, because groundwater pumping effects were included in the model; however, just taking land out of production and not using it for anything else would be an extremely easy application to this model.

Commissioner Harris observed that the figures in the document are reported in 1995 dollars, and noted that the figures would be higher for 1998 dollars, and asked how the 1998 dollar values could be calculated. Mr. Goldman said this would be determined by multiplying by the amount of inflation since 1995, which has generally been running anywhere from two to four percent a year. He said he used a national database which is currently adjusted to 1995 dollars.

Commissioner Brean referred to Mr. Goldman's response to Vice Chair Mello's question about the economic effects of retiring agricultural land, in which Mr. Goldman said that taking land out of production and not doing anything else with it would be an easy application to the model. Commissioner Brean asked about other factors, such as recreation implications for hunting, associated with how those retired lands are ultimately used. Mr. Goldman answered that the model does not create the scenario; the user creates the scenario and feeds it into the model. Considerations such as whether or not people leave the area, or whether they live off of their savings, will have different economic impacts, so whatever scenario is constructed by the user can be fed into the model in order to see how the scenario plays out in the economy; this, too, is a relatively simple application.

Commissioner Cabaldon stated that he found the title a bit misleading, because he was hoping as he read through it to get past just the boating and fishing information. He hopes people will be citing this report as an example of the kind of impacts recreation has in the Delta, but it's going to understate those impacts because camping, hiking, hunting, and other significant activities have been left out due to lack of data, which has made those impacts difficult to quantify. Mr. Goldman said that the Department of Commerce has an office that estimates total tourist expenditures by county, and the research group did a rough estimate using these figures; they calculated that if you look at the whole counties that the Delta is in, the Delta only represents about 16% of the economic activity of the area. Perhaps using the same methodologies the Department used to estimate county tourist expenditures, they'd be able to estimate expenditures in a subcounty area, but Mr. Goldman doesn't think they've ever done that. Commissioner Cabaldon added that we know how many people are using campgrounds, and because hotels and other establishments should be able to tell roughly how many of their visitors are tourists as opposed to people visiting their families, we should be able to get an idea of the money generated from these activities. Over the long run, we need to broaden this analysis to include other recreational user groups besides just anglers and boaters. Mr. Goldman said that it is certainly possible to get this information; there's just no quick and easy way of doing it.

Commissioner McGowan stated that he would like the retirement of agricultural land to be explored using the model, even if other scenarios weren't added to it. Mr. Goldman suggested that he and Margit could arrange for this analysis to be done.

Chairman McCarty commented that it is important to recognize that while recreational use of the waterways for boating and fishing is the single largest recreational component, ecotourism and hunting are increasingly becoming larger components of recreation in the Delta. Ecotourism

has a very significant economic and socioeconomic impact, in light of users' particularly heavy expenditures in the area, and hunting should also be measured in some manner. These are large components that add a lot of value to Delta recreation and shouldn't be overlooked.

Commissioner Calone said that when hunting clubs spend money on levees, floodgates, and wetland activities, there is considerable economic activity for construction and dredging companies. Some of these projects run in the millions of dollars, and amount to a large multiplier spread out among the construction workers in the area.

Chairman McCarty requested that Ms Aramburu send a copy of the final report to each Commissioner. He then opened the public hearing.

Craig Lundborg, President of California Delta Chambers and Tourist Bureau, and owner of a marina on Bethel Island, suggested that this report only covered fishing and boating in the nine state parks, and is sadly lacking on the other 80 percent of tourism in the Delta. His group of 250 constituents, covering Lathrop to Pittsburg and Suisun to the Garden Highway in Sacramento, are all water-oriented businesses and support businesses. There is a tremendous amount of restaurant dollars generated which don't come from the state parks, where visitors bring their own food and camping equipment. He thinks that the rest of the Delta is being forgotten, and would like to help the Commission by perhaps acting as a Clearinghouse for information in the future.

Chris Lauritzen, Lauritzen Yacht Harbor in Antioch, said the reason that boating and fishing have been so good in the past is because historically there has been good water. Some of the changes occurring in the Delta recently (water hyacinth, egeria densa, the CALFED process) are adversely impacting recreational boating and angling in the Delta. If the water changes or the fishery gets any worse, then the money generated by fishing will diminish in the Delta; if places like Sherman Lake, Franks Tract, or other shallow areas continue to be overcome by egeria densa, there will be fewer boaters and anglers in the Delta. He said we need to be vigilant in keeping the waterways clear and having good water for boating, fishing, and all other recreational activities. He agrees that the report needs to be expanded to include activities like kayaking and other tourism. He noted that when this report was put together two years ago, they were running against the sunset clause of the Commission, so they tried to focus on the two biggest user groups, anglers and boaters. He hopes that they will be able to continue following the economic impacts of these activities, and of tourism as a whole, on the Delta region.

Chairman McCarty closed the public hearing, and brought the matter back to the Commission for any comments and possible motion for accepting the report for publication and distribution.

Commissioner Potter asked Mr. Goldman to speak to the criticism of the report as to whether or not it is missing a major sector of recreation in the Delta. Mr. Goldman said that his intuitive feeling is that fishing and boating are by far the major activities, but whether it's 60%,

70% or 80% he doesn't know; there's no easy way of determining that. He could talk to the Department of Commerce to see if there's any way to use their data to estimate what's really going on.

Commissioner Potter said that part of the criticism was that the assessment was focused on state parks as opposed to a broader perspective. Ms Aramburu answered that the report was prepared by Department of Parks and Recreation; the subcommittee reviewed the questionnaire, which is included in the report. The questions were not asked at the Delta's only state park; they were asked of a randomly selected broad representative sample of boaters and anglers. She said that because there were no comprehensive lists of hikers, cyclists, or hunters, they were not included. Most people that recreate in the Delta participate in multiple activities (camping, hiking, observing or photographing wildlife, coming to special events).

Chairman McCarty said that the assumption from the sampling is that if a sample group is using the Delta for specified purposes in specified locations, then you can extrapolate that information over the entire area for all those users. Ms Aramburu said that hopefully, the sampling does include people that use private as well as public facilities, and she's going to make sure that the people who attended the meeting have the complete data collected by the Department of Parks and Recreation, because even if it was conducted in 1996 and reported in 1995 dollars, you still get a good feel for the impacts of recreation on the Delta economy. Chairman McCarty added that the surveys were sent out at a particular time of the year, which could have drawn the focus of the surveys to activities occurring during that season as opposed to during the hunting season. Ms Aramburu stated that some data was collected on anglers or boaters who also hunt, but those numbers are very low, so she suspects that there are hunters who don't fall into those groups.

Commissioner Ferreira asked what percentage of those surveyed responded to the questionnaire. Ms Aramburu answered that she couldn't remember the exact number, but she said she could review that briefly with the Commission at the next meeting. She thinks that 60% was needed for the results to be statistically valid, so surveyors would send the questionnaires over and over again to get responses. Vice Chair Mello recalled that the Commission had been generally impressed at the time at how high the level of response was.

Commissioner Ferreira asked if, in a motion to approve the report, they were approving a draft to be circulated for public review and comment, or approving a final report. Ms Aramburu said that the draft was circulated to the Commissioners, the regional citizen advisory committee, the subcommittee members, and all parks and recreation managers for the counties and cities in the Delta area; she has received no comments other than those received at tonight's meetings, and there are some corrections to be made to the report to clarify the concerns contained in the Foster and Associates letter, and editorial comments to be incorporated. A final document will be prepared which reflects the discussion at tonight's meeting, but unless requested, there would be no circulation of another draft. Commission staff would send a copy to each Commissioner, notify everyone on the mailing list that the report is available, and also post it on our home page.

On a motion by Commissioner Potter seconded by Commissioner Cabaldon, the report was approved, subject to needed changes and corrections..

Chairman McCarty thanked the Subcommittee for their work, and added that like all studies, this is a snapshot at a particular time which is changing, so the report should periodically return to the Commission for update and review.

13. Commissioner Comments/Announcements. Regarding the September 11 memo on the half-year budget balance which states that \$56,000 out of the 97-98 budget's going to be paid back on the loan, Vice Chair Mello asked what the outstanding balance on the loan is. Chairman McCarty suggested it might be around \$20,000; Ms Aramburu said she could not recall the amount. She said she'd follow up with the Department of Conservation; staff had sent them a letter requesting that the money left over be placed against the loan.

Regarding the September 11 memo on Prop 204 grants for public access and recreation, which talks about possible acquisition and minor improvements to Delta Meadows River Park by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Vice Chair Mello stated that he didn't know there was any more private land to be bought. Ms Aramburu said that there are water-covered areas behind the community of Locke which the Department of Parks and Recreation has been interested in acquiring for quite some time; this option is still under discussion.

Commissioner Broddrick brought and distributed some written material on the mitten crabs for the Commissioners' information and briefed the Commission on this material. He said that the information was part of an Outdoor California article which talks about exotics in general; there are currently 212 known exotic species in the Bay-Delta estuary. The cameo exotic for the moment is the mitten crab, and at last count, up to 20,000 crabs a day were going into the screens at the Tracy facility, enough to compromise fish salvage and reduce the head on deliveries by 4.5 feet. The crab is broadly distributed within the tributaries. It spends its juvenile life stage in fresh water, and migrates out to salt water to spawn. It's a prohibited species in California, and has been for some time, but the prohibitions and enforcement have not been effective in avoiding the problems we are now experiencing. He doesn't know that anyone has proposed or has at their fingertips an effective control measure. The crabs are a potential threat to levees; they have been known to burrow 12"-14" deep. They eat mainly vegetation, but are opportunists, and they tend to get fairly large.

Commissioner Potter added that some crabs have been collected at the State Water Project facility, but Department of Water Resources has not been experiencing the same problems with the crabs as the Bureau of Reclamation has at its Central Valley Project facility. He's been hearing conflicting predictions; some biologists believe that because of Clifton Court Forebay, DWR will never see the horrible situation that BOR has encountered, but they are concerned. He saw a video taken at the Tracy facility in which the crabs were being collected. He said the Bureau [would] not get a single fish in its normal salvage operations, then look into the holding tanks, where there are thousands of interlaced crabs plugging the hole and holding the dead fish.

Vice Chair Mello asked if the Clifton Court Forebay's more channelized structure was believed to be the reason for the difference in the magnitude of crabs being collected at the two facilities; Commissioner Potter answered that it's also a timing issue, and DWR may be about to see the same situation. It is believed that most of these crabs are coming from the San Joaquin River, which puts them on the Bureau's system first, but there's also a timing factor in their coming across Clifton Court; perhaps once they're in sufficient density in Clifton Court, DWR will begin to see the same problem.

Chairman McCarty said that his concern is heightened, because he thinks the mitten crab problem is going to make the egeria densa and water hyacinth problems seem very small in comparison. Last year, they saw 20,000 crabs total, this year they're seeing 20,000 a day; what are they going to see next year? They're a risk to levees, recreation, and agriculture (they get into the siphons), and on top of that, we have a disposal problem. We're going to have a tremendous amount of biomass to dispose of every day, and we ought to find some good way to use that, other than digging a hole and burying it, which is what we're currently doing.

Commissioner Potter added that the crabs are considered a food delicacy in Asia, but they do carry a liver fluke which makes them very dangerous. There's some belief that these crabs came into this estuary from markets in San Francisco rather than from ballast water.

Chairman McCarty said that we could get rid of a lot of them if we were allowed to eat them, but currently it is illegal to possess them.

Commissioner Broddrick said that the regulations need to be adapted to address the current problem. There is the human health issue with the liver fluke problem which may or may not be resolved. So we may be able to utilize the crabs, but rarely can commercial harvest be used as a control method which would provide any significant relief, especially given the extent of the problem today. DFG is currently looking at possible solutions. The crabs aren't able to reproduce in fresh water. The market for these crabs is pretty robust in some economies.

Commissioner Calone said that Ms Aramburu had sent him a letter regarding the duck hunters on Big Break. He said it looks like the East Bay Regional Parks District has been making hunting more difficult by asking hunters for a lot of legal paperwork and liability insurance on their duck blinds, and asked if there was any update on this situation. Ms Aramburu said that she spoke with the staff of EBRPD last week, and told them that they need to ensure that this is reasonable cost, and it's obtainable. She's been assured that EBRPD staff will work with the duck hunters at Big Break, and that the intention is not to restrict hunting. She hopes this will be resolved by the next meeting, because duck hunting season will begin soon. She said she'd follow up.

14. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.